

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

In general, DRM systems in most implementations have had wide ranging and over severe implications to consumers. I would like better proof that it will not implicate my personal use before the system is considered for implementation.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Again, today's DRM solutions are often dependent on a fixed set of keys or information that is highly platform dependent. I recognize the difficulty of recognizing a second TV or computer in my own house from one on another network, but this is a problem that proponents of the system should address, rather than punishing consumers with inconvenience.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I highly doubt that material broadcast with new DRM features could be accomodated and controlled via existing electronics components, since out of necessity the platform needs to be capable of handling the DRM.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

By definition, a broadcast flag is designed to limit distribution of marked content. Obviously the intent is to restrict activities other than fair use, but to date the technology has not proved sophisticated enough to tell the difference between fair and otherwise. Given the restrictions implicit in such a DRM system, it's impossible to say what the downstream implications are of such a technology.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

It seems clear that there will be a substantial cost to the consumer, whether its direct, indirect or otherwise. Whether it's new set top boxes, or higher cable service costs, at some point the costs of all of the significant development will inevitably be passed to consumers.

Other Comments:

I believe that networks are over concerned with the possibility of piracy, not recognizing that by controlling the medium, they are in the driver's seat. They will **always** have the new shows - they will **always** have the recent release movies. For the majority of consumers, the impetus for piracy just isn't there. I'd like the FCC to consider this when they listen to reactionary networks terrified of the unknown.